UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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REFUGE TO BE RENAMED AFTER J. CLARK SALYER II

The Department of the Interior is memorializing the late J. Clark
Salyer II, head of the Fish and Wildlife refuge program for more than
30 years, by renaming Lower Souris National Wildlife Refuge, North Dakota,
in his honor.

Dedication ceremonies will be held at Refuge Headquarters near Upham, the afternoon of September 20. At that time a plaque will be unveiled paying tribute to this "father of the refuge system."

More than any other man, Salyer created the present National Wildlife Refuge System of the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. In 1934 when he joined the Biological Survey, forerunner of the Fish and Wildlife Service, as chief of the new "refuge unit," there were few areas set aside for wildlife. Today the system has grown to 312 refuges totaling 28 million acres.

Salyer was a graduate of Central College at Fayette, Missouri, with an A.B. degree in biology. He received his Master's from the University of Michigan in 1931 after three years of teaching at Parson, Kansas. He was born in Higginsville, Missouri, in 1902, and died on his 64th birthday, August 16, 1966.

J. N. "Ding" Darling, famous cartoonist and conservationist, said of Salver in 1956:

"It is my earnestly considered judgment that no man in America, in my generation, has single-handedly and alone restored, created and dedicated as many thousands of acres of wildlife habitat as J. Clark Salyer. He has literally carried the load of the National Wildlife Refuge program on his own shoulders since the early days of the duck crisis of 1934. . . . Many others have received medals and citations for work in the field of conservation which never would have been accomplished but for the eternal vigilance and dogged determination, plus the never-ending physical force, of that man Salyer."

Lower Souris, always a favorite area with Mr. Salyer, is a 58,694-acre refuge on the southward loop of the Souris River as it dips into the United States from Canada. Established in 1935, it is an important waterfowl production area and concentration point for spring and fall migration. Peaks of 300,000 ducks use the five large impoundments which create extensive marsh and wetland meadows. A great variety of other birds also use the area.

Designation of Lower Souris honoring Mr. Salyer is most appropriate since he approved the step by step development of this famous refuge from its inception. This was one of the first refuges that Salyer selected for acquisition and development when he became Chief of the then Branch of Wildlife Refuges.

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